



AIDS and Anthropology Bulletin

 NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS AND ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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SPRING 2008

Letter from the Chair

Dear AARG,

I hope this newsletter finds you all well.

I want to update you on what happened and since our business meeting in Washington, DC at the end of last November:

AARG is alive and well! We had an excellent turn-out at the meeting, with 26 attendees.

We voted to ratify proposed changes to the by-laws which you can find on our website: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/bylaws.html>.

I announced the results of the 2007 AARG election. They

are as follows:

- * Graduate Student Representative: Rebecca Polmateer
- * Electronic Communications Editor: Raymond Bucko
- * Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Kroeger
- * Steering Committee Member: Alexander Rodlach
- * International Professional Representative: Adam Kiš
- * International Student Representative: Ademowo Adeyemi Johnson
- * SMA Policy Chair: Kathleen Ragsdale
- * Service Award Chair:

Raymond Bucko

Congratulations to those newly elected to posts! To those who are continuing in their posts, many thanks for your ongoing contributions to the survival and smooth functioning of AARG.

I updated the group on the progress of AARG's SMA policy statement on the "Prostitution Loyalty Oath." We aim to have statement, co-authored by Kathleen Ragsdale, Janie Simmons and myself, complete this spring.

The respective winners of the AARG paper prize were announced. The paper prize committee had difficult decisions to make because of the

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Letter from the Editor

In this spring issue, the newsletter focuses on the 2007 Clark Taylor Professional Paper Prize and the Student Paper Prize. The two winners, Andrew Irving and Shana Hughes provided summaries of their papers.

In addition, we have provided the AARG Business Meeting Minutes and some great pictures of the meeting participants.

I want to thank David Beine for the great pictures of the AARG Business Meeting!

Let's keep the Bulletin going! Submit papers, announcements, and photos to aarg-sub@gmail.com. I look forward to your submissions!

**AIDS AND
ANTHROPOLOGY
RESEARCH GROUP**

Officers:

Chair Delia Easton

Secretary/Treasurer: Karen Kroeger

Electronic Communications Coordinator: Raymond Bucko

Steering Committee International Student Representative: Ademowo Adeyemi Johnson

SMA Policy Chair: Kathleen Ragsdale

Service Award Chair: Kathleen Erwin

Graduate Representative: Rebecca Polmateer

Steering Committee:

David Beine

Judy Benjamin

Monica Stanton Koko

Susan Pietrzyk

Rebecca Polmateer

David Turkon

Past Chairs:

Douglas Feldman (1986-89, 92)

Norris G. Lang (1988-90, 93)

Ralph Bolton (1991)

Janet McGrath (1994)

Michael C. Clatts (1995)

Robert Carlson (1996)

Margaret Connors (1997)

Fred Bloom (1998-99)

Elisa J. Sobo (2000-01)

Merrill Singer (2002-03)

Doug Goldsmith (2004-2006)

AARG Announcements

The XVII International AIDS Conference will, for the first time in its history - and possibly in the history of conferencing - provide hubs (centres) where selected sessions of the conference will be screened, either live or delayed, around the world and maybe followed by a moderated local discussion to see how the content of the session can be used locally. There will be one Official Hub in South Africa.

Additionally, Partner and Independent Hubs will be put together either by large international non-for-profit organisations or by local communities (schools, AIDS societies, faith-based organisations, etc.) or individuals. The conference organisers will not help these groups set up the hubs, but promote them through the official AIDS 2008 web site, providing technical guidelines and the feed (content).

Hubs submissions are open. Please click the following url to submit a hub.

<http://www.aids2008.org/hubs/SubmitHub.aspx>

Unite For Sight Fifth Annual International Health & Development Conference

Building Global Health For Today and Tomorrow

April 12-13, 2008

Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

[Register Today at http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2008](http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2008)

Join 2,000 conference attendees and 180 speakers for a stimulating international conference.

Unite for Sight: A Nonprofit Organization
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Keynote Addresses By: Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Dr. Sonia Sachs, Dr. Susan Blumenthal, and Dr. Jim Yong Kim
Plus More Than 180 Featured Speakers

Register For Conference - EARLY BIRD RATE (\$75 students, \$100 all others) **[Register at http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2008](http://www.uniteforsight.org/conference/2008)** REGISTER NOW TO SECURE LOWEST RATE. RATE INCREASES AFTER JANUARY 30th



The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

Mission

The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group (AARG), an interest group of the Society for Medical Anthropology (SMA), is a network of scholars interested in anthropological research on HIV infection and AIDS. The mission of the AARG is to support anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

To this end, AARG

- 1) works to use anthropological research in the fight against HIV and AIDS,
- 2) advocates for AIDS research within anthropology,
- 3) promotes AIDS research by anthropologists within the broader AIDS research community,
- 4) and provides a forum for anthropologists working on AIDS to meet & communicate about their work.

Letter from the Chair,

(Continued from page 1)

superior quality of the fifteen papers submitted this year. The 2007 winner of the Clark Taylor prize is Andrew Irving for his article, *Ethnography, art and death*. The recipient of the 2007 AARG Student paper prize is Shana Hughes for her paper, "An Epidemic Contextualized: HIV/AIDS in Porto Alegre, Brazil." Shana Hughes was able to attend the business meeting, and Andrew Irving, who was not able to attend, will join us at the 2008 business meeting and talk about his article then. Also, Dr. Irving asked to AARG to donate his prize to the charity of our choosing; we decided to send the check to AID Atlanta.

Please note as per amendments to the by-laws, there is an additional category for undergraduate student submissions in addition to professional paper submissions and the (now) graduate



AARG business meeting in November 2007

student submissions category. The proposed change was suggested because it was becoming increasingly difficult to judge undergraduate papers against graduate ones. Also, we will now accept already published papers for consideration of the Clark Taylor Award within a year of publication of the original article.

As part of her treasurer's report, Karen Kroeger asked those assembled to think of uses for the small balance that we carry in the AARG account each year (around \$200). Unfortunately, we won't have this amount carrying forward each year indefinitely unless we are able to increase our memberships, but at the moment we do have this balance. At the business meeting, some suggested using these funds to offer travel awards to students or AARG members overseas, but in subsequent discussion with the Steering Committee, we determined that we couldn't afford to do this. Instead, Karen Kroeger has suggested that we could consider ways to promote membership through a booth at AAA or SfAA, or through prizes offered to



Chair Delia Easton at the AARG business meeting in November 2007

members. We welcome additional input from members for uses for this money.

We discussed possible topics for AARG initiated sessions at the 2008 AAAs. Thus far, David Turkon and Alexander Rodlach are submitting a proposed session abstracts on the ABC debate and David Beine submitted an abstract for a proposed roundtable on historical trends in the anthropology of HIV/AIDS.

Since the AAA Meetings this year coincided with World AIDS Day, the Steering Committee began discussing ways AARG could commemorate World AIDS Day the next time the Meetings coincide with World AIDS Day which will be 2009 (aside from the traditional distribution of red ribbons). Doug

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Minutes and Pictures from the AAA November 2007 AARG meeting

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Goldsmith is pursuing an AIDS quilt idea and other Steering Committee members have suggested setting up sessions or meetings focused around enduring topics in HIV/AIDS research and engaging experts to present or discuss at these sessions. Please email me with any additional ideas or inspirations.

One woman attending the business meeting said that she joined AARG for the express purpose of contributing to AARG's impassioned and sometimes charged listserv discussions, particularly about AIDS education, and she asked people at the business meeting how we can resume these discussions. Doug Feldman encouraged her to use the listserv to re-energize these discussion, and raise other topics of concern and interest to you. While it's difficult to artificially jumpstart as organic a process as a provocative and engrossing listserv discussion, by all means, if you want a more active listserv, use it to raise questions and exchange and debate ideas about whatever is important to you as an anthropologist involved in HIV/AIDS work and research.

Finally, to everyone going to SfAA this year, enjoy the meetings! There will be no AARG meeting at the SFAAs this year but we will

meet again as usual at the AAAs in San Francisco this November.

Be well!

Delia



Doug Feldman at the AARG business meeting.



AARG business meeting participants, November 2007



Former chair Doug Goldsmith at the AARG business meeting.



The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

2007
THE AARG CLARK TAYLOR PROFESSIONAL PAPER PRIZE
AND
THE AARG STUDENT PAPER PRIZE

2007 AARG CLARK TAYLOR PROFESSIONAL PAPER PRIZE WINNER

Ethnography, Art and Death*

Andrew Irving
University of Manchester

Ethnography, Art and Death is one of a series of papers—based on close collaborations with people living with HIV/AIDS within radically different cultural contexts—that explores how the world appears to people close to death, particularly with regard to the aesthetic appreciation of time, existence and otherness. The series seeks to understand how experiences of illness, death and dying are mediated by interior dialogues and imaginative practices as well as by different cultural practices, religious beliefs and types of social interaction. As conventional social scientific approaches and measures are often too static to understand and capture the fluidity of perception, especially among those living with terminal illness and episodes of bodily instability, I set up a series of staged 'fieldwork encounters' between persons living with HIV/AIDS in Kampala, Uganda with the aim of capturing the often unvoiced but often radical changes in being, belief and perception that can occur while carrying out routine everyday activities. For example, changes in identity and body image; changes in pre-existing social practices and religious beliefs; changes in the type of imaginary worlds people inhabit in relation to material surroundings, changes in perception when experiencing decline or when attempting to reclaim life and enter new existential terri-

tories . The paper can be thought of as a piece of collaborative visual ethnography that tries to understand the consciousness of someone about to commit suicide. It recreates a day in which a man tried to commit suicide 3 times in the same day and attempts to show how inner dialogue, mood and emotion are formed in relation to everyday material surfaces. The idea is to use performance to bring people's experience to life and offer a better understanding of their daily struggles through a 'dramatisation of being' rather than more conventional fieldwork methods. I hope to present material from this paper at the AAA Aids Research Group meeting later this year.



Andrew Irving in Uganda, 2001

* The full paper will appear in The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute
Volume 13 Issue 1 Page 185-208, March 2007



The AIDS and Anthropology Research Group

2007
THE AARG CLARK TAYLOR PROFESSIONAL PAPER PRIZE
AND
THE AARG STUDENT PAPER PRIZE

2007 AARG STUDENT PAPER PRIZE WINNER

An Epidemic Contextualized: HIV/AIDS in Porto Alegre, Brazil

Shana Hughes, Ph.D./MPH Student
University of South Florida



Shana Hughes at the AARG Business Meeting at the 2007 AAA's.

This paper takes a holistic approach to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Porto Alegre, Brazil. National and local history is offered as essential background for interpreting the contours of the epidemic. Quantitative measurements are one window onto HIV/AIDS as a "biosocial phenomenon" (Castro and Farmer 2005), and are seen to reflect multi-scale political-economic and cultural forces. The methods employed in the analysis include a survey of national, state, and municipal-level epidemiological data, the review of context-specific literature, participant observation in support groups and treatment centers for HIV-positive patients, and in public and academic fora, interviews with biomedical/ public health practitioners as well as directors of a non-governmental organization (NGO) involved in the AIDS movement. In its consideration

of HIV/AIDS outside of Brazil's most populous cities, this paper's main objective is to identify how HIV prevention policies, while internationally lauded, may fail to resonate with particular populations at risk.



AIDS and Anthropology Research Group 2009 Membership Form

AARG continues to work hard to enhance its position as an active site for networking and organizing among scholars like you. This includes developing new and expanded opportunities for you to network with colleagues who share your commitment to the use of anthropology in understanding, preventing, and reducing the harm caused by HIV/AIDS.

As an AARG member, your benefits include:

... access to the AARG listserv, which allows you to send and receive email messages about conferences, job announcements, calls for papers, publications, etc.;

... access to the AARG website, which contains valuable information including course syllabi, important links, upcoming conferences, and publications like the AIDS and Anthropology bibliography;

... the quarterly AARG Bulletin, distributed to national and international scholars, including social scientists and medical professionals;

... AND the AARG Membership Directory, including names, institutional affiliations, addresses and research interests for all AARG members, available in both paper and electronic formats.

Membership is open to all interested persons. Persons do not have to be members of either the American Anthropological Association or the Society for Medical Anthropology to join AARG. Regular membership is \$20, and student membership is \$5 per year (September 1-October 31). Free membership is available to non-U.S. based researchers Please subscribe electronically at: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/membership.html>, if not please mail this form with you check or money order to the address provided below.

Remember, even if you are a non-paying member, we must hear from you once a year to know that you are still active (a note through email for our international members is fine!). If you would still like to continue your membership with AARG, please remember to renew and support AARG by paying your annual dues.

✂ -----
SAVE YOUR POSTAGE -- FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AT: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/membership.html>

Please Print or Type **New Member** **Renewing member**

Name: _____ **Affiliation:** _____

Mailing Address:

Office Phone: _____ **FAX:** _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Website: _____

Regular Member - \$20.00, Student Member - \$5.00, Free Membership (available to non-U.S.-based members, or financial hardship)

Please provide up to five key words about your research interests:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Please briefly describe your current project/s:

We prefer to deliver our newsletter electronically. Are you willing and able to receive the AARG BULLETIN by e-mail? Yes ____
No ____

Would you like your email address to be added to the AARG listserv? Yes ____ No ____

SAVE YOUR POSTAGE -- FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AT: <http://groups.creighton.edu/aarg/membership.html>

Please send this form and a check or money order (made out to AARG in U.S. funds only) to:

Raymond A Bucko, S.J., Creighton University, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178

Any questions? Please email- bucko@creighton.edu

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE AIDS AND
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GROUP**

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